

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, US, SP, PORG

SUBJECT: US-SPANISH COUNCIL - REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO

WE HAVE POUCHED TO THE SPANISH CO-CHAIRMAN THE FULL TEXT OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON OCT 4: (BEGIN TEXT)

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE HAS FOCUSSSED ITS EFFORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR ON FURNISHING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN INFORMATION ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WHICH MAY FACILITATE THE EVENTUAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IN SPAIN ON THE QUESTION OF ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP. DURING THIS YEAR THERE HAS BEEN A GRADUAL GROWTH IN CONTACTS UNDERTAKEN BY SPANISH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, AND BY SPANISH POLITICAL LEADERS, BOTH WITH THE ALLIES AND WITH NATO'S INTERNATIONAL STAFF. THE COMMITTEE HAS CONTINUED TO MONITOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH CONTACTS, BUT HAS NOT ITSELF UNDERTAKEN ANY DIRECT ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD. THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMMITTEE HAS

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POINTED OUT THAT A MORE ACTIVE PROGRAM SHOULD AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW SPANISH CONSTITUTION THIS FALL AND ELECTIONS PROGRAMMED IN SPAIN FOR EARLY 1979.

IN MARCH 1978. THF COMMITTE SPONSORFD IN MADRRD A TWO-DAY CONFIDFNTIAL SEMINAR ON NATO FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS OF YHE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE PARTICIPANTS DEALT FULLY AND FRANKLY,

ON AN UNINSTRUCTED BASIS, WITH SPANISH QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ACTUAL COSTS AND BENEFITS TO SPAIN OF NATO MEMBERSHIP, AND THE POSSIBLE MILITARY ROLES FOR SPAIN IN THE ALLIANCE, WHICH IT WAS EXPECTED WOULD BE LOGICAL EXTENSIONS OF PRESENT NATIONAL TASKS. THIS SEMINAR ALSO STUDIED IN SOME DETAIL THE THREAT POSED TO SPAIN BY THE WARSAW PACT. A FURTHER SEMINAR IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR LATER THIS FALL.

DURING NOVEMBER 1977, THE COMMITTEE INVITED TO SPAIN A U.S. EXPERT ON DEFENSE BUDGET MATTERS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, WHO, WORKING WITH THE SPANISH HIGH GENERAL STAFF, CONCLUDED THAT SPANISH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER USING THE NATO FORMULA OF ANALYSIS THAN USING THE NATIONAL SPANISH FORMULA. THE FIGURE FOR 1977 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 2.8 PERCENT, USING THE NATO FORMULA.

A SERIES OF BRIEFINGS WERE HELD DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL NATO MEETINGS: THE DECEMBER 1977 DPC AND NAC MINISTERIALS, THE NATO SUMMIT OF JUNE 1978, AND THE DPC MINISTERIAL OF MAY 1978. THESE BRIEFINGS WERE CARRIED OUT BY SENIOR US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE US MISSION TO NATO. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE CONSULTATIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE DECEMBER 1977 MINISTERIALS AND THE JUNE 1978 SUMMIT.

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THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE PROGRAM OF CONSULTATIONS IN ADVANCE OF MAJOR NATO MEETINGS BE EXPANDED.

THE BASIC GUIDANCE GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE MINISTERS IN MAY 1977 REMAINS VALID. THIS WAS THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD

-- BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL THROUGH ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DIRECTLY, AS NECESSARY, OPPORTUNITIES, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY, FOR MORE DIRECT SPANISH CONTACT WITH NATO;

-- COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION USEFUL TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S STUDY OF NATO;

-- RECEIVE BRIEFINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS FROM APPROPRIATE US REPRESENTATIVES ON THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE, IN PARTICULAR ON THE PERIODIC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

THERE ARE NO MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE WORK OF THE COM-

MITTEE WHICH REQUIRE DECISION BY THE MINISTERS AT THIS TIME.

(END TEXT) TODMAN

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